

Articulate Congressman

Thomas Hale Boggs

FOIAB3B

Special to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 9—
"When Hale takes the floor,
there's always order in the
House."

That comment by a col-
league points up a basic fac-
tor in the political strength
of Representative Thomas
Hale Boggs, the new Demo-
cratic whip, or assistant ma-
jority leader, of
the House. For

Man
in the
News

Mr. Boggs, an
intelligent and
urbane lawyer
from New Or-
leans, can command the at-
tention of an audience under
the most trying circum-
stances. He is one of perhaps
a dozen men with the ability
to gain and hold the hushed
attention of the House with-
out so much as a gentle tap
of the presiding officer's
gavel.

It has been said that no
speech ever changed a vote in
Congress, but Mr. Boggs and
a few others are talking evi-
dence to the contrary. Col-
leagues not only listen to him,
but they also often heed his
advice.

The elements of his per-
suasiveness include a pre-
possessing figure (6 feet, 200
pounds), a resonant voice,
usually pitched in conversa-
tional tones, an ability to
articulate even the most com-
plicated point clearly and
concisely and a thorough
knowledge of his subject.

As a rule, he speaks with-
out text or notes. He uses a
relaxed manner and a boyish
smile to disarm his opponents
in debate and an occasionally
sharp tongue to deflate them.

Influential in Legislation

At 47 years of age, Mr.
Boggs has won national at-
tention mainly as an effec-
tive spokesman for liberal
foreign trade policies. He has
been equally influential in the
passage of tax legislation to
finance the Interstate High-
way System.

In addition, he has had an
influential hand in tighten-
ing narcotics control laws and
in shaping tax revision bills,
rivers and harbors measures
and sugar control legislation.

Although he has always
stood with the Southerners on
civil rights, Mr. Boggs is not
regarded as an extremist. He
signed the "Southern Mani-
festo" in 1956 against the
Supreme Court's school de-
segregation decree but other-
wise has been largely inactive
in racial controversies.

On legislative issues pit-
ting liberals against conserv-
atives he has voted against
the conservative coalition in
the House more often than
he has voted with it.

He was a candidate for
chairman of the Democratic
National Convention in 1960
but was ruled out by the late
Paul M. Butler, then Demo-
cratic National Chairman,
ostensibly because he was a
Roman Catholic. Mr. Butler
was said to have felt that
with two Catholics already
in the forefront of the con-
vention—himself and John F.
Kennedy—it would have been
inadvisable to have had an-
other as convention chair-
man.

Mr. Boggs' friends believed
the real reason was his rec-
ord on civil rights.

The post of deputy Demo-
cratic whip of the House was
created especially for Mr.
Boggs by the late Speaker
Sam Rayburn in 1954. This
was regarded by some col-
leagues as a gesture in sup-
port of Mr. Boggs's long-
standing ambition to become
Speaker himself some day.



Associated Press

*His colleagues often heed
his advice*

been fortified by his eleva-
tion to the third-ranking
post—that of whip—in the
House Democratic leadership.

Despite his new responsi-
bilities, Mr. Boggs is expect-
ed to continue as the fourth-
ranking Democratic member
of the House Ways and Means
Committee and chairman of
a House-Senate subcommittee
on foreign trade policy.

Mr. Boggs got into politics
shortly after winning a law
degree from Tulane Univer-
sity in 1937 as a leader of a
New Orleans reform group
that temporarily broke the
power of the old Huey P.
Long machine.

Mr. Boggs was first elected
to Congress in 1940 and, at
the age of 26, was its young-
est member. Defeated in his
bid for a second term in 1942,
he served as a naval officer
in World War II and regained
his House seat in 1946. He
has held it since then.

Married an Editor

At Tulane, Mr. Boggs was
editor in chief of the campus
weekly, The Hullabaroo. The
editor for Newcombe College,
Tulane's women's branch, was
Corrine Morrison Claiborne.
They were married in 1938.
They have three children,
Barbara, 22, Thomas Hale,
Jr., 21, and Corinne, 18.

Mr. and Mrs. Boggs enter-
tain frequently at large, po-
litically oriented parties in
their big Georgia-style white
home in near-by Bethesda,
Md. Mrs. Boggs, long active
in Democratic political af-
fairs, was co-chairman of
President Kennedy's inaugural
committee last year.

For relaxation, the Con-
gressman grows turnip
greens, asparagus, beans,
beets, onions, lettuce, broccoli,
corn "everything you can
imagine" in Mrs. Boggs's
words—in a huge garden at
their Bethesda home.

He is a prodigious reader
and likes to listen to record-
ings of classical or popular
music while consuming the
latest novel or political bi-
ography, frequently in one sit-
ting.

Mr. Boggs was born at Long
Beach, Miss., but spent most
of his boyhood in Jefferson
Parish, the Louisiana county
just west of New Orleans. His
parents were William Robert-
son and Claire Josephine Hale
Boggs.

He worked his way through
Tulane, where he won election
to Phi Beta Kappa, the hon-
orary scholastic society.